

REMARKS

Claims 1, 9, 10, 25, 33, 35, 39 and 42-43 have been amended and claims 3, 11-12, 14-24, 26-32, 34, 36-38, 40-41 and 44-49 canceled herein pursuant to the election to prosecute subject matter corresponding to Group IV identified in the Restriction Requirement mailed October 11, 2000 in parent case Ser. No. 08/813,788. The amendments are not intended to surrender any of the elected subject matter. Support for the amendments is found in the claims as filed.

All of the current claims incorporate the limitations of claim 1, which are within the scope of Group IV of the Restriction Requirement. Therefore, while the current claims read upon groups in addition to Group IV identified in the aforementioned Restriction Requirement, the claims are no broader than Group IV and thus restriction of the amended claims is neither necessary nor proper. Consideration of the amended claims is thus respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, Applicant submits that, in light of the foregoing remarks, the present case is in condition for allowance and such favorable action is respectfully requested. If however, some unanswered questions remain in the mind of the Examiner, or if the Examiner would be available to discuss the merits of this case, and assist in facilitating its speedy allowance, she is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative at (512) 536-3085 with any questions, comments or suggestions relating to the referenced patent application.

Consideration of the foregoing remarks is earnestly solicited by the Applicant.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Hanson', written over the printed name.

Robert E. Hanson

Reg. No. 42,628

Attorney for Applicants

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI, L.L.P.
600 Congress Ave., Ste. 1900
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 474-5201

Date: January 13, 2004